

Oak Grove, La.  
Sour Lake, Texas

4/15/53 -- 3/29/53  
3/20/55

THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

Droser, Leake — 10/26/58

Budg City, Tex — 8/12/62

Vidor, Texas

1/17/65; 1/24/65

2/17-24/75

Anahuac TX

4/14/91 Mon & Night

2/17/02 m + n.

Loch Thompson



*Jan 2:44*  
*Jan 2:21-24* → THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

Introduction:

1. ~~Today~~ we shall study the first church which was established on the earth, by the authority of Jesus Christ.
2. *Jan 3:5* Luke 24:46--"Repentance and remission of sins preached beginning at Jerusalem." Lk 24:49--"Tarry in the city until clothed with power."
3. Mk 9:1; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4--Kingdom-power-Spirit.
4. Acts 2:15-37, 38--Message is preached--Repent. and Baptism.
5. People added to the church--Acts 2:41; 2:47  
Those who accepted what Peter preached:
6. Thus the first church born by God's approval.
7. Let us notice some of the characteristics of this church:

BODY: JERUSALEM, THE MODEL CHURCH: AND AN EXAMPLE:

1.

1. IN RESPECTABILITY:

Acts 2:47--"having favor with all the people." (*Ph 2:52*)  
They commanded even the respect of their enemies.  
A wonderful tribute to any body of Christ.  
Must first be respected in God's sight, before can be respected in sight of people.  
Not necessarily popular (persecuted and reproached)  
Not because of its size, but because of their sincere, devoted, godly, consecrated, lives.  
Not in favor with every single person, but with the mass of the people.  
Does not mean that all the people had accepted Christianity, but had respect for its converts.

2. A HAPPY CHURCH:

*2 Cor 3:2* Acts 2:46---"took their food with gladness and singleness of heart." "Praising God."

One of the outstanding effects of Christianity.  
A Christian should be far from gloom, despondency.  
They had sincere and pure hearts, satisfied and thankful.

All the way through the N.T. God's people are spoken of as being happy and content;

1 Thess 5:16--"Rejoice always"

*4:11* Phil 3:1--"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord  
One is not converted who is not happy and content as a Christian seeking to live a Christian life."

3. A CHURCH FULL OF ZEAL: LOYAL:

Acts 2:46--"And day by day, continuing stedfastly..."

Daily teaching the Word of God.

Had a desire to teach their neighbors and friends.

They had a new message which told of the forgiveness of sins, and they desired to tell others.

4. A UNITED CHURCH:

- (1) United in purpose: Had the same desires and wishes.  
Acts 2:46--"with one accord"  
Acts 4:32--"of one heart and soul"  
They felt alike, attached to the same things, close and tender union,  
At least 5000 members drawn together by the Love of God unto one soul.

(2) United in Prayer:

Acts 4:24--"lifted up their voice to God with one accord."  
Acts 12:5-12

They knew the power of praying to the Father.  
Many today have not learned the value of prayer.

(3) United in Sacrifice:

Acts 2:44--"were together, and had all things common."

To meet a great need they pooled their assets and dedicated them to the Lord--Acts 4:32-37.

Sold and gave into a common treasury to enable the Church to take care of the need.

This was completely voluntary, and was done because the need was sufficient to demand it.

What an effect Christ had in their lives, even overcame their love for property.

They gave as the need came--Does not teach that everyone should sell all things and give it all to the church, only as the need demands.

This is the only church that did this.

(4) ~~United in Fellowship:~~ "sold & gave according to the need"

Acts 2:44--"continued steadfastly in fellowship"

Carries out the thought of having things in common.  
All Christians have the same hope of heaven, same joys, same hatred of sin, same enemies to contend with.

United (fellowpartakers) in feelings, in interest, in dangers, in conflicts, in opinions, and in the hopes of immortality.

1 Cor 3:9--"For we are God's fellow-workers; ye are God's husbandry, God's building."

1 Cor 15:58--"Wherefore, my brethren, be ye steadfast"

1. Eph 5:23 - only those in church shall be saved, are you?
2. You must do the same thing they did to become a member of the same thing they were members of, or else God is a respecter of persons,